GLOBAL CITRUS SCAN (2016_2)

John Edmonds (21 January 2016) Citrus Growers Association (CGA)

Spanish lemon season much shorter this year

Demand for citrus is picking up, "Sales are doing better now that the weather is colder," sats Henk Vlaeminck from Van Dijk Foods Belgium. There has been an increase in the price of the juicing oranges due to less supply. The price of the navel orange is pretty stable."…At the end of next week the Maroc Late will come onto the market. We will see the kind of impact the Moroccan supply will have on the juicing oranges."…"There is currently a transition from the Navel oranges to the Navel Late oranges. These are a little more expensive than the 'normal' navel oranges, but the prices are quite normal. Gradually more Nadorcott tangerines are coming onto the market, and Clemenvilla is now nearing its end."..Henk continues, "We expect that the Spanish lemon season will end sooner than last year. The Primofiore variety is expected until the end of February. After which comes the later variety Verna, which is expected to last only about a month. Spanish shippers believe that the lemon season is as good as over at the beginning of April. This is a month and a half earlier than normal." The lower supply was mainly due to the weather, "This is why the harvest of the Verna lemons will be 30-40% lower. The prices have been high the whole season, well above one Euro."

[Freshplaza.com; 21 January 2016]

Argentina: Misiones quarantined after HBL discovery

Citrus producers in the northern part of the province of Misiones are undergoing a distressing situation after the National Health and Food Quality Service blocked the province because of the appearance of the Huanglonbing (HLB or citrus greening) virus in some plantations. The measure was taken to prevent the virus from spreading to other parts of the country. There's a climate of intense discomfort among the producers affected by the measure that doesn't allow them to transport citrus fruit outside the province. According to producer Ricardo Ranger, "the fruits are falling from the plants and we have already lost 2,000 tons of fruits." Furthermore, he said,"I have fifty employees that could lose their jobs."…Producers accused Senasa. "SENASA wants to destroy the citrus industry in Misiones," stated Ranger, adding that SENASA was responsible for allowing the income of smuggled Paraguayan citrus plants, which were infected by the HLB virus, which ultimately lead to the current situation.

[misionesonline.net; 21 January 2016]

Italy: Prices above average for lemons, very low for oranges

The citrus fruit market is rather varied - things are not going well for oranges, the situation is slightly better for clementines and lemons are doing quite well. "The orange market is stalling because consumption is low and there are great volumes available, especially of Sicilian Tarocco. In addition, as plants produced more, grades are on average smaller," explains wholesaler Andrea Saturnini from Sa.Ga. Frutta…The situation is better for clementines, as fruit is now coming from Apulia and Basilicata rather than Calabria. "The season has been difficult, but the change in the production area is helping, as there is less produce available and prices are a little better." The last clementines from Calabria are sold at €0.50-1.00/kg depending on the grade, whereas those from Apulia reach €1.50. Late tangerine sales started last week "with normal prices and average sales due to the presence on the market of domestic clementines and oranges." Prices hover around €1/kg for packed late tangerines with big grades. The lemon season is an entirely different matter…This is due to the fact that Spain, which rules the market, produced less volumes this year, and the same has happened in Italy. The price of premium quality Italian lemons is above €1/kg and the Spanish ones are sold at €1.30-1.40/kg."

[Freshplaza.com; 21 January 2016]

Pakistan sets ambitious Kinnow export target

The Pakistani government has set a goal to export 400,000 tons this season, and based on export numbers from previous years…While Pakistani growers are busy working to meet orange export targets, the political situation in two key markets could force the government to adjust its export goals. Indonesia has stopped importing fruit from several big trading partners, and if Indonesia doesn't take Pakistani oranges, then meeting the 400,000 ton goal will be almost impossible…"Indonesia is a big market for Pakistan in terms of volume," said Jawad. "…We also have to consider the sanctions on Iran." Pakistan considers Iran a key trading partner, though Jawad estimates that the Iranian market consumes about 50,000 to 70,000 tons of Pakistani oranges every year…There will be big changes now as the United States will no longer apply its crippling sanctions on Iran's economy, especially on the banking sector," Jawad added…Jawad believes Pakistani shippers can grow their market share in Russia. "Egypt has its own variety and we have our own kinnows," said Jawad. "There is competition in one sense, but this just gives Russians more options in terms of taste and appearance…

[Freshplaza.com; 18 January 2016]